

The above amendment and these remarks are responsive to the communication from Examiner Douglas Hess of 20 Sep 2001.

35 U.S.C. 112

1. Claims 10-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for use of the phrase "general human relations environment".

Applicants have amended claim 10 to remove the phrase to which the Examiner objects.

35 U.S.C. 103

4. Claims 4-6, and 13-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wong (U.S. Patent 6,115,690) in view of Wewalaarachchi, et al. (applicants assume this refers to U.S. Patent 6,067,477).

Wong teaches in a software set for conducting business on the Web. (See the summary, Columns 4-6). It does not provide the capability to analyze and re-engineer a current, or legacy, business process, and then propose changes based

EN999116

3

S/N 09/444,254

on that re-engineering. It also cannot be customized to fit the re-engineered processes.

The description of Wong's Figure 2, at Columns 11 and 12, does not described applicants' claimed "database of templates describing procedures for preparing a general procurement and accounts payable application" (emphasis added), but rather entry points to a common information base from various process points (Sales Support, Accounting, Purchasing, Receiving, Assembly, and Shipping).

With regard to Wewalaarachchi, Col. 3 lines 28-31 and Col. 3 line 67 through Col. 4 lines 1-6, this describes control and monitoring of a physical environment, not re-engineering of a procurement system. Personnel references in Wewalaarachchi, Col. 5 lines 52-53, relate to storing data, and re-engineering and transition. This also applies to Wewalaarachchi, claim 8. These teachings of Wewalaarachchi do not describe or suggest a method for determining how to optimize (that is, re-engineer) procurement system. Applicants argue that it is not apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art to examine a physical plan control process to learn how to optimize a company procurement system according to the process of these claims.

EN999116

4

S/N 09/444,254

in Wewalaarachchi, Col. 5 lines 52-53, relate to storing data, and re-engineering and transition. This also applies to Wewalaarachchi, claim 8. These teachings of Wewalaarachchi do not describe or suggest a method for determining how to optimize (that is, re-engineer) procurement system. Applicants argue that it is not apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art to examine a physical plan control process to learn how to optimize a company procurement system according to the process of these claims.

Reilly provides a process for a company to privately model its business using non-technical terms and inferred data and information (see Col. 3, line 10). Because of this, it is not a tool capable of re-engineering the business process. On the other hand, applicants' process infers nothing but takes only factual information at a detail level that allows a business process offering to be re-engineered to produce a re-engineered business process offering. Applicants' process is not designed for novices, but rather provides the tools needed to thoroughly and technically analyze every business process individually and together. The Examiner refers to many activities which may be done manually. However, applicants claimed invention coordinates these a particular set of activities within a

EN999116 6 S/N 09/444,254

defined system configuration into a complete process that allows assessment of the synergistic impacts of the those activities required to re-engineer a procurement system. It is only by looking at the whole process and all of its interactions that applicants invention enables the business function to be re-engineered.

Neither Wong, Wewalaarachchi, nor Reilly, nor their combination, teaches a system or process for analyzing and adapting (that is, re-engineering) a legacy application for a customer to produce an adapted (that is, re-engineered) application based upon templates describing procedures for a general procurement and accounts payable system, as claimed. Wong is for web business with no capability or reference to re-engineering business processes. Wewalaarachchi relates to controlling physical plant activities. Reilly, is a non-technical modeling tool without factual data inputs, and no implication of re-engineering.

Applicants urge that claims 7 and 9-12 be allowed.

Conclusion

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes

EN999116

7

S/N 09/444,254

made to claim 10 by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."


Applicants urge that claims 4-15 be allowed.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conversation with applicant(s) attorney could possibly facilitate prosecution of the case, he may be reached at the number noted below.

Sincerely,

R. F. Barnard, et al

By


Shelley M Beckstrand
Reg. No. 24,886

Date: 1 Dec 2001

Shelley M Beckstrand, P.C.
Attorney at Law
314 Main Street
Owego, NY 13827

Phone: (607) 687-9913
Fax: (607) 687-7848

EN999116

8

S/N 09/444,254

Version with markings to show changes made

Claim 10 has been amended as follows:

1 10. [Amended] The method of claim 5, said tasks including
2 procedures for

3 performing analysis on the customer human relations
4 environment, including a plurality of the set including
5 organization structure and relationships, labor
6 relations, management, administration, and end user
7 roles and responsibilities[, and general human
8 relations environment];

9 developing and approving a detailed transition
10 management and communication plan;

11 updating a customer specific transition management
12 strategy; and

13 defining a quality assurance process.